

Family Education Newsletter

KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

DECEMBER 2004

PARENT to PARENT LETTER...

This letter is in regards to my experiences at KSD. I have a child that is 14 years old who is deaf. He currently attends Kentucky School for the Deaf. My child started at KSD at the age of three. The preschool class that he was in was phenomenal. The teachers were supportive to me as a parent in regards to helping me understand my child's disability as well as learning to communicate with him. Learning American Sign Language is the key for us as a family to communicate with our child and other deaf people. I can not stress the importance to all families to learn sign language.

When my child was 7 years old, we transferred him into public school to try to mainstream him with hearing kids. During the 4 years that he was mainstreamed, he struggled the entire time that he was in class. Although I think it was a good transition for him at the time, I realize now that being at the Kentucky School for the Deaf is where he has found his comfort zone. KSD has helped my child to grow and mature, to mentally and physically adapt to the real world. The staff at KSD not only makes my child's experience beneficial but mine, as a parent, as well.

Kids with disabilities need support from their school system as well as support from home. The parent support groups and the social events that KSD provide are an essential part of our life in order for my child to accomplish his goals and to further his education for when he graduates and continues to be successful in the hearing world.

There are not enough words that come to mind that I can express to the staff at KSD for the ongoing support that we receive as a family. God Bless!

Sincerely, Tina Voris (Salvisa, KY)



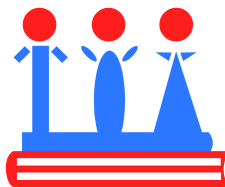
FAMILY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER will be changing...

This is the last issue of the KSD Family Education Newsletter as you have come to know it these past two years. The new Statewide Family Support Center will start publishing a newsletter at the end of December. This new newsletter will be mailed out to any family in Kentucky who requests it. All KSD families will automatically get a copy.

We will strive to have interesting articles for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing... any age, any school/program. PLEASE send

suggestions, letters, good websites, tips, etc to Pat Bruce or Cathy Howle, here at KSD. We will include as much as we can each month. Stay in touch!

STATEWIDE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER
PO Box 27 Danville, KY 40423



Supporting our children
through home-school
communication.

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The Kentucky School for the Deaf's FAMILY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER is published monthly during the school year.

Clip art is downloaded from
Microsoft at
dgl.microsoft.com/?CAG=1

K.S.D. provides equal education
and employment opportunities
M/F/D

Visit the KSD Homepage at
www.ksd.k12.ky.us

To contact the KSD Family
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7017, ext 2503 (TTY or Relay
Service); email her at
pbruce@ksd.k12.ky.us, or write to
KSD

PO Box 27
Danville, KY 40423



ATHLETIC EVENTS

Girls Basketball

| | | | |
|---------|---|------|------|
| Dec. 2 | Bluegrass Conf. Tourn. at Sayre High School | 7:30 | away |
| Dec. 4 | Virginia School for the Deaf Invitational | TBA | away |
| Dec. 7 | Saint Frances (JV) | 6:00 | away |
| Dec. 13 | Evangelical Christian (JV) | 6:00 | away |
| Dec. 16 | Louisville Collegiate (JV) | 6:00 | away |

Boys Basketball

| | | | |
|---------|---|------|------|
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Swim Team

KSD has a swim team again this year! Contact the swim coach, Tina Yance or Paul Smiley for the dates and times of the swim meets.



NEW PRINCIPAL FOR KSD...

The Kentucky Department of Education has started the process of hiring a new KSD Principal. As you know, Fran Hardin has moved to be Director of Outreach Services and Bill Melton is currently Interim Principal. Over the last several weeks, the KSD School Council contacted all families, alumni, staff, and students for their input on the important characteristics a person must have to fill this position. At the same time, KDE has posted the vacancy and is seeking qualified applicants.

On Dec. 6th, the School Council will meet to develop criteria for the Principal's position. Shortly after the Christmas break, they hope to start reading applications and interviewing candidates. There will be an open forum for staff, parents, alumni, and students to meet the finalists. The goal is to have the new person in place by the Spring time.

This is an important process and families need to be involved. The Principal of KSD oversees the on-campus programs for Preschool through High School. Thanks to those of you who sent in feedback to the Council. When the open forum is announced, please make plans to attend and share your opinion.



PTCA's PANCAKE and SAUSAGE DAY... a big success!!!

The PTCA and KSD Alumni Association joined forces to bring back the popular fundraiser and community event, Pancake and Sausage Day, this past November 24th. There was a lot of support from families, alumni, and staff. The PTCA and Alumni want to **THANK** everyone who sent door prizes, bought tickets, made or donated items for the Drawing Prizes, donated items for the Silent Auction, and/or helped work that day!

The winners of the Drawing Prizes will be notified as soon as possible and arrangements made to pick up the prizes. The winners of the Silent Auction baskets were notified that day and they picked up those the same afternoon.

The actual amount of proceeds will not be known until all of the bills are paid. As soon as that's done, we'll pass on the information as well as how the PTCA plans to use those funds.



KSD WEBSITE UPDATE

by Lisa Selby

The KSD WebPages have changed in response to the changes in structure at the school. There will be more changes coming as we grow and continue to improve our school. Most of the recent changes are centered around the expanding role of Outreach and the newly named Special Education Cooperatives (formerly Regional Programs). We have also added a link on the left of the pages for the Family Education Newsletter to allow easier access to this information for parents. However, most of the pages remain organized much the same as they have been.

On the left you will find:

What's Happening? - the latest and most up to date news on campus;

School Calendar - listing the holidays and other important dates;

School Menu - updated weekly;

Family Education Newsletters - monthly newsletters for parents;

Technology - How To's, Technology news, resources, and assistance;

McAfee Updates - for school employees who need to keep their virus protection updated;

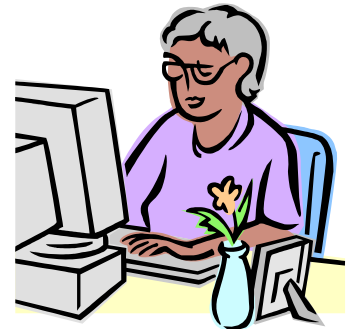
Job Opportunities - links to Kentucky Department of Education Website which lists job openings at KSD and around the state;

Links - a host of websites related to deafness and deaf education;

KSD Athletics - sports team information and schedules;

Search for Staff - listing of staff email and phone numbers on campus;

KSD Webmail - connection for staff and students to use to connect to their school email from anywhere.



Across the top you will find:

About Us - School Mission Statement, list of facilities, school history, information about Danville, etc.

Elementary, Middle, & High School Teams - focus on what is going on within those grade levels and classrooms including individual teacher WebPages;

Outreach - Under Construction;

Special Education Cooperatives - formerly the Regional Programs links;

Services - Family Support Services, Outreach, Special Ed. Coops, PTCA, Early Childhood, Sign Language, Interpreter services, Captioned media program, and more!

We hope this will help you to navigate through our pages and find everything you are looking for. Please send feedback to the webmaster link at the bottom of each page as you feel the need. We provide these pages as a service to staff, students, parents, and interested parties in order to enhance the education of our students and others in the field of deafness. Enjoy!



AROUND THE STATE

The Family Education Office is in the process of moving to the new Statewide Family Support Center offices in Lee Hall. All papers and information about regional events/activities is boxed up and unavailable... Please call/email your regional KSD contact persons for more specifics about sign classes, parent meetings, etc. This section will return in the new newsletter in January.

THE POWER OF PARENTS *from Stephanie Disney*

1 Parent = a fruitcake

2 parents = a fruitcake and a friend

3 parents = troublemakers

5 parents = "Let's have a meeting."

10 parents = "We'd better listen."

25 parents = "Our dear friends..."

50 parents = A POWERFUL ORGANIZATION

from the Parent Leadership Associates www.plassociates.org



CAREER EDUCATION

from Judy Burkhead, KSD Career Ed. Teacher

Knowing who we are including our likes and dislikes, interests, aptitudes and personality trait is important in guiding career decisions. Career classes are intended to help students discover important information about themselves in addition to acquiring information about careers and developing skills. Parents play an important role in helping children develop goals for their future in this area.

It is important to realize that children and young adults are works in progress. They are just beginning to explore who they are, and, in part, are defined by where they are developmentally and socially. While this self understanding is important in choosing a career that is a good fit, it is often the tendency of parents, to do the defining for them. How many times have you heard a parent say things like, "Suzy is easygoing just like her Grandma or has a hot temper like his father. In truth, these behaviors might be only a reflection of their state of development and not a personality trait. .

Career Parent Newsletter points out the importance for parents to support children's exploration of who they are, without making judgments. According to the newsletter:

- Children continually redefine themselves as they grow and change. Allow them the freedom to be who they are during these different stages of development.
- Encourage new experiences. For example, if your child spends all their time outside, riding bikes and playing ball, you might want to have some quiet indoor time when you read together or do a craft.
- Model the behavior you want. For example, your child will be resistant to being outside if you never go outside yourself.
- Avoid labeling your child. Even positive labels can have negative effects.

On a child's journey to find themselves, parents are guides and advisors, but the child leads the way. It is important that we not limit our children through comparisons or comments. Let's allow our students to stretch themselves in order to find new horizons and opportunities.



FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE

The following article appeared in the Danville Advocate newspaper on Thursday, Nov. 11, 2004

KSD Campus to Shrink Under New Plan

By TODD KLEFFMAN, Staff Writer

A plan for a much smaller, more tightly-knit Kentucky School for the Deaf campus was unveiled Wednesday night before a large crowd of students, parents, alumni and staff from around the state who packed into Kerr Hall. The proposal, the result of nearly a year's effort by the facilities planning committee, recommends the campus be condensed around the cluster of newer buildings and athletic fields along KSD's southern and eastern borders. It would reduce the size of the campus from 166 acres to roughly 50 acres. The plan calls for some new construction along with additions and major renovations to existing buildings that carries an estimated price tag of between \$12 million and \$15 million.

The plan, which is expected to be submitted to the state Board of Education next month, focuses solely on facilities needed to support the school's educational mission. It does not address what may become of KSD's older buildings and any land left over after the campus is reconfigured. It's likely that at least some of the excess buildings and land will be sold or leased. "The property is owned by the state Finance Cabinet," explained Mark Ryles, a Department of Education official who introduced the plan. "Normally, money from the sale of any property would go to the state's general fund, but the committee is recommending that money from any sales come back to KSD" to help pay for implementing the plan.

Among the features of the plan are a new 400-seat auditorium, a student center added to Kerr Hall and a new elementary building. Also proposed are a redesigned campus entry from Second Street and a new traffic pattern

continued on next page



Facilities Planning Committee (continued from Page 4)

that directs vehicles around the exterior of the campus instead of toward the middle. The Fosdick and Beauchamp buildings might be razed to make way for a parking lot.

The proposal also prioritizes which of the campus' older buildings should be retained. Jacobs Hall, the oldest structure and home to the state Deaf Museum, is the most important, followed by Walker Hall on the corner of Martin Luther King and Second Street. The lowest priority buildings are along Third Street, some of which haven't been used for 15 years and have fallen into disrepair.

About 175 people attended the meeting and 20 signed up to speak about the plan. Many had kind words for the proposal overall, but added emotional pleas to keep the campus intact and suggestions as to how some of the older buildings should be used. "The design looks wonderful," said KSD graduate Jeff Kassinger. "I think the property and buildings should be sold or leased only to people who have an interest in the Kentucky deaf community."

Graduate Nancy Eggerton was among several people who suggested that Walker Hall be converted into a mental health center for the deaf and hard of hearing. Many deaf students who suffer from mental or emotional problems or substance addiction are currently sent to Florida for treatment and it would be much more convenient and cost effective to have a facility on the KSD campus.

Others said that a transitional group home needs to be established on campus to help graduates learn job skills and other training to help them make their way after they leave KSD. Other suggestions included setting up a continuing education and GED program on campus, finding a spot for the KSD Alumni Association and building a second gymnasium.

Teacher Barbie Harris, who has two deaf children, was among several speakers who made sentimental pleas to keep the campus as whole as possible. "It is important for us to keep deaf culture. We have so much history here, especially Jacobs Hall," Harris said. "If we decrease the size too much, we would become like nothing. It would hurt. We cherish this school. It is so important to us."

Interim Principal Bill Melton said after the hearing that is understandable how many deaf students develop such a strong emotional attachment to the school. "This is their home, their real estate. They grew up here," Melton said. But most also understand the "fiscal reality" that requires KSD to get smaller, he said.

KSD is currently home to 141 students, down sharply from the 450 students that were on campus when Melton arrived in 1976. About 80 percent of deaf children are now mainstreamed into public schools, he said. That big drop in enrollment has led to a substantial decrease in federal and state funding over the years, and fewer students and staff has meant that several of KSD's 18 buildings have gone unused or used only for storage. The older buildings and large campus area are expensive to maintain and create safety concerns, Melton said. "It's obvious that something will happen that the campus will be modified," he said.

The planning committee hopes to have at least one more public hearing on the facilities proposal before taking it to the state Board of Education. Comments made at Wednesday's hearing will be incorporated into the record and could be used to modify the plan before it is submitted, Ryles said.

The plan is not final yet, Ryles told the crowd. Ultimately, it will be the state that decides KSD's future, he said, but that decision won't likely come until sometime next year.



OPEN CAPTIONED MOVIES

information provided by Byron Wilson, KSD Teacher

Deaf and hard of hearing people living in, and around, Danville, Louisville, and Lexington have been enjoying open-captioned movies recently. Open-captioned movies have captions that anyone in the audience can read. Many deaf people are very happy to be able to "go see a movie" just like other families. Not all movies are captioned and not every showing is captioned. Check with these theaters for their specific schedules. Hope to see you there!

DANVILLE - Cinemas 8, 1001 Ben Ali Drive <http://www.danvillecinemas8.com/cincode.htm>

LEXINGTON - Regal Cinemas, Hamburg Pavilion, at Man O' War Blvd. & I-75

LOUISVILLE - Stonybrook Theaters on Hurstborne Parkway



DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec 1 Middle school students have been invited to the Presbyterian Church for dinner and Christmas Craft Night. They will be served pizza and be able to make 5 or 6 different crafts that they can give as presents or use in their homes for decorations.
- Dec. 9 Gallaudet-Clerc Banquet, 6:00 pm in Walker Hall
- Dec. 14 Walker Hall students will shop at their "Elf Store"
- Dec. 14-16 Final Exams (High School)
- Dec. 17th... Walker Hall will have an Open House beginning at 10:00. Everyone is invited to view the students' work and be given a tour of each classroom's learning activities. The Walker Hall choir will perform and a special presentation will be given. Refreshments will be provided.

CHRISTMAS/WINTER BREAK - December 18 - January 2

*The staff and students of the Kentucky School for the Deaf
wish you a happy and safe Christmas holiday!*

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PO Box 27
Danville, KY 40423